



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

June 22, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Doug Davis
1-800-368-8808
304-558-8986

**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW
WARNS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS
ABOUT FINANCIAL AID SERVICES**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw has issued a warning to high school students in the Wood County/Parkersburg area who may have received invitations recently to attend a college financial aid seminar on the weekend. Although invitations have been mailed to students in Wood County, the seminar is scheduled to be held in Charleston at a local hotel.

The Attorney General's office has received complaints about similar operations in West Virginia over the past several years. Although the companies advertise a free interview with students and their parents to determine whether financial aid is available for college, the interview is usually concluded with a hard sell sales pitch to purchase the company's services purportedly costing more than a \$1,000 but discounted for the special weekend price of typically \$700 to \$900.

"Students and their parents can find just as much financial aid from their local high school guidance counselor, public libraries, Internet, and government agencies for free rather than paying almost \$1,000 for similar services," said Attorney General McGraw.

The Attorney General's office has learned that one such company has scheduled a seminar in Charleston at the Charleston House Holiday Inn for July 24 and 25. The Attorney General's office is advised that the company has not yet registered with the State Department of Tax and Revenue to do business in West Virginia.

###